

Message Text

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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6301
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
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SUBJ: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1977-1982: BACKGROUND NOTE

REF: USNATO 3547 (DTG 221710Z JUN 76) (NOTAL)

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE FOR
THE PRESS (PRESS RELEASE (76)7) ON NATO FORCE GOALS FOR
1977-982, ISSUED BY THE NATO PRESS SERVICE:

BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE (76)7:
NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1977-1982 BACKGROUND NOTE FOR THE PRESS

AS STATED IN PARA 4 OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING IN
BRUSSELS ON 10TH AND 11TH JUNE, NATO HAS NOW ESTABLISHED ITS
FORCE GOALS FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD UP TO 1982.

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THE FORCE GOALS BASICALLY REPRESENT THE IMPROVEMENTS
IN QUALITY, READINESS, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT WHICH THE MAJOR
NATO COMMANDERS WISH TO SEE MADE IN THE FORCES ASSIGNED OR
EARMARKED TO THEM OVER THE PRIOD IN QUESTION, IN ORDER TO

ENHANCE THEIR DETERRENT AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES IN THE FACE OF KNOWN INCREASES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THE WARSAW PACT. THEY ORIGINATE, THEREFORE, IN PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS AND THEIR SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS. THESE PROPOSALS ARE FIRST EXAMINED BY THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE BOTH IN DETAIL AND FROM THE OVERALL MILITARY STANDPOINT; AND THEN BY THE DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE (ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE) FROM A NON-MILITARY STANDPOINT, ESPECIALLY FROM THE POLITICAL, FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS. WHEN THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION, THE FORCE GOALS ARE FORMALLY ADOPTED AND THE RESULTS REPORTED TO MINISTERS.

THE NATO FORCE PLANNING CYCLE

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORCE GOALS REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE NATO FORCE PLANNING CYCLE, THAT IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH COLLECTIVE DEFENCE PLANNING IS CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THERE ARE BASICALLY THREE ELEMENTS TO THIS PROCESS.

- AGREEMENT ON A GENERAL POLICY DIRECTIVE, KNOWN AS THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, WHICH SETS OUT THE AIMS AND PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD GOVERN ALL DEFENCE PLANNING IN NATO. THIS DOCUMENT IS REVISED AND UPDATED EVERY

ALLIANCE CO-OPERATION

IT SHOULD BE EMPLASISED ALSO THAT MANY OF THE FORCE GOALS HAVE BEEN FRAMED IN A WAY TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES THROUGH GREATER ALLIANCE CO-OPERATION, RATIONALISATION AND STANDARDISATION, FLEXIBILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

EXAMPLES OF THIS ARE THOSE GOALS WHICH CALL FOR:

- INTRODUCTION OF A NATO STANDARD RIFLE;
 - STANDARDISATION OF WEAPON SYSTEMS FOR THE F-16 AIRCRAFT;
 - CO-OPERATION IN IMPROVING ELECTRONIC WARFARE
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CAPABILITIES.

THE FORCE GOALS ALSO IN SOME CASES PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF EXISTING CIVIL RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLIANCE DEFENCE EFFORT, E.G. IN THE USE OF CIVIL AIRLIFT AND SEA-LIFT CAPABILITIES.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

IN REACHING A JUDGEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE FORCE GOALS ADDRESSED TO EACH COUNTRY, NATO HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EACH COUNTRY CONCERNED ITS EXISTING NATIONAL DEFENCE PLANS, ITS PRESENT EFFORTS, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ALREADY SPENT ON DEFENCE, AND ITS ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND GROWTH RATE. THE FORCE GOALS PARTLY ENDORSE NATIONAL PLANS, BUT FOR THE MOST PART CALL FOR

INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS UPON THEM. MINISTERS HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE.

EXAMPLES

TO ILLUSTRATE THE ABOVE, SOME TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF FORCE GOALS ADOPTED FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES (#) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BELGIUM: EQUIPMENT OF NEW FRIGATES WITH SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES.

CANADA: EARLY REPLACEMENT OF THE ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS IN THE CANADIAN BRIGADE IN EUROPE WITH A MODERN VEHICLE.

DENMARK: EARLY AND COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF THE OLDER TYPE OF MAIN BATTLE TANK.

GERMANY: INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMBAT AIRCRAFT WITH FULL NIGHT/ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITIES.

ITALY: ACCELERATION OF THE SHIP-BUILDING AND MODERNISATION

PROGRAMME.

LUXEMBOURG: PROCUREMENT OF A LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENCE MISSILE SYSTEM FOR THE LUXEMBOURG BATTALION.

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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NETHERLANDS: COMPLETE MECHANISATION OF THE 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

NORWAY: MODERNISATION OF FRIGATES AND REPLACEMENT OF FAST PATROL BOATS.

PORTUGAL: MODERNISATION AND RE-EQUIPMENT OF THE ARMY
FORMATION EARMARKED TO NATO.

TURKEY: MODERNISATION OF COMMUNICATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM: IMPROVEMENTS IN ANTI-ARMOUR CAPABILITY, INCLUDING
THE EQUIPMENT OF MORE HELICOPTERS WITH ANTI-TANK
MISSILES.

UNITED STATES: MEASURES TO ENSURE THE EARLIER ARRIVAL OF
REINFORCEMENT FORCES IN EUROPE.

N.B. THESE ARE NOT, OF COURSE, THE ONLY, OR EVEN THE MOST
IMPORTANT FORCE GOALS ADDRESSED TO EACH COUNTRY. THEY ARE
SELECTED MORE OR LESS AT RANDOM TO INDICATE A CROSS-SECTION
OF INDIVIDUAL FORCE GOALS AND TO ILLUSTRATE THEIR GENERAL
CHARACTER.

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(#) FRANCE, GREECE AND ICELAND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE
FORCE GOALS PROCESS.

(B) MARITIME FORCES

THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCES,
ACCELERATION OF MODERNISATION AND REPLACEMENT
PROGRAMMES AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGHER STATES
OF READINESS. IN THE FIELDS OF ANTI-SUBMARINE
WARFARE AND SURVIVABILITY, TO WHICH PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ATTACHED, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN
PLACED ON THE AUGMENTATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF
MARITIME AIR CAPABILITIES AND ON DIRECT DEFENCE BY
SHIPBORNE WEAPON SYSTEMS AGAINST WW AND MISSILE
ATTACK. FOR ALL COUNTRIES IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR
ELECTRONIC WARFARE CAPABILITY HAS BEEN ACCORDED
HIGH PRIORITY. IMPORTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN ATTACHED TO
THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE
CRUISERS AND SUPPORT SHIPS TOGETHER WITH THE ASSOCIATED
V/STOL AIRCRAFT PROGRAMMES.

(C) AIR FORCES

THE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVEMENTS IN QUALITY RATHER THAN
ON AN INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT; THE FORCE
GOALS ENDORSE PLANS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF MODERN
AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH ADEQUATE SELF-PROTECTION
ELECTRONIC AND INFRA-RED COUNTERMEASURE EQUIPMENT TO
ENABLE THEM TO OPERATE IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT;
PROCUREMENT OF MODERN AIR DELIVERED MUNITIONS AND
TERMINALLY GUIDED WEAPONS; PARTICIPATION IN THE
STUDY OF A NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM; AND
IMPROVEMENT OF LEVELS OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS. THE
GOALS CALL FOR THE PROVISION OF ACTIVE AIR DEFENCE
AGAINST LOW-LEVEL ATTACK AT NIGHT AND IN ALL-WEATHER
CONDITIONS ON AIRFIELDS AND VITAL AIR INSTALLATIONS;
AND ALSO ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-SERVICING

FACILITIES TO INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY OF AIR FORCES.
TWO YEARS AND IS ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
MINISTERS. THE CURRENT VERSION WAS APPROVED IN 1975
AND AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF IT WAS PUBLISHED WITH
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THE DEFENCE MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE OF MAY 1975.

- ADOPTION OF FORCE GOALS, WHICH REPRESENT THE
TRANSLATION OF THIS GENERAL DIRECTIVE INTO SPECIFIC
PLANNING TARGETS FOR EACH COUNTRY. THIS IS ALSO
A BIENNIAL PROCESS CARRIED OUT UNDER MINISTERIAL
AUTHORITY.
- THE NATO DEFENCE REVIEW, WHICH OCCURS EVERY YEAR,
IS THE MECHANISM BY WHICH NATO MONITORS THE ACTIONS
AND PLANS WHICH NATIONS HAVE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE
FORCE GOALS AND THEIR NATO COMMITMENTS IN GENERAL.
THE RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW ARE REPORTED TO DEFENCE
MINISTERS AT THEIR ANNUAL DECEMBER MEETING.

CONTENT OF THE 1976 FORCE GOALS
THE MAIN THRUST OF THE FORCE GOALS ADOPTED BY NATO
IN MAY 1976 IS TO STIMULATE IMPROVEMENTS IN NATO FORCES WHERE
THESE ARE MOST NEEDED TO OFFSET THE INCREASING STRENGTHS OF THE
WARSAW PACT FORCES, E.G.:

(A) LAND FORCES
ACHIEVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF NATO STANDARDS FOR
MANNING LEVELS, WAR RESERVE STOCKS AND TRAINING;
REPLACEMENT AND MODERNISATION OF EQUIPMENT WITH
EMPHASIS ON ARMOUR/ANTI-ARMOUR, AIR DEFENCE AND
PROCUREMENT OF MODERN SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE
SYSTEMS; IMPROVEMENT OF COMMAND, CONTROL AND
COMMUNICATIONS, PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS,
TARGET ACQUISITION AND BATTLEFIELD SURVEILLANCE;
IMPROVEMENTS IN ELECTRONIC WARFARE CAPABILITIES AND
THE WIDER INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERISED SYSTEMS.

IN RELATION TO THE MEDIUM-TERM FORECAST FOR ECONOMIC
GROWTH FOR MOST COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FORCE
GOALS WILL NOT, FOR THE MOST PART, REQUIRE ANY INCREASE IN THE
SHARE OF GDP ALLOCATED TO DEFENCE THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD. IN
THE CASE OF TWO COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, (PORTUGAL AND TURKEY)
NATO RECOGNISES THAT FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FORCE GOALS
WILL BE DEPENDENT LARGELY UPON EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FROM
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

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CONCLUSION

THE RECENT ADOPTION OF THE FORCE GOALS BY NATO REPRESENTS THE END OF A LONG DETAILED AND THROUGH PROCESS REFLECTING CLOSE CO-OPERATION IN INTEGRATED ALLIANCE DEFENCE PLANNING BETWEEN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THE STAFFS OF NATO HEADQUARTERS AND THE NATO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. THE PRODUCT IS A SET OF MILITARY PLANNING TARGETS FOR EACH COUNTRY WHICH THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE CONSIDERS TO BE OBJECTIVES BOTH REASONABLE AND REALISTIC FOR CO-ORDINATED DEFENCE PLANNING. IN ADOPTING THE FORCE GOALS, COUNTRIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO INTRODUCE THEM AS PLANNING TARGETS INTO THEIR OWN NATIONAL FORWARD PLANNING, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE NATO'S DETERRENT AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY OF LONG-TERM DEFENCE PLANNING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

THE FORCE GOALS NOW ADOPTED BY NATO WILL PROVIDE ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE JUDGED IN THE COURSE OF THE NATO DEFENCE REVIEWS OF 1976 AND 1977.

END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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